

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 /081 W

-----043148 120258Z /66

R 112001Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9533

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL CURACAO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 9927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NA, VE

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES

BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

REF: CARACAS 9514

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS OF DUTCH EMBASSY, POLCOUNS TOLD THAT VENEZUELANS HAVE APPROACHED DUTCH ABOUT SETTLING MARITIME BOUNDARIES BETWEEN NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND VENEZUELA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. GOV REASONING IS THAT MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED BEFORE INDEPENDENCE OF ANTILLES WHILE REASONABLE DUTCH GOVERNMENT STILL HAD SAY IN THE MATTER AND WHILE MODERATE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION STILL IN POWER IN VENEZUELA. APPROACH REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE AT UN DURING BILATERAL BETWEEN DUTCH AND VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTERS. DUTCH REPLY WAS THAT IT HAS NO OBJECTION TO SUCH DISCUSSIONS, BUT THEY CANNOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL NETHERLANDS ANTILLES GOVERNMENT GETS ITSELF ORGANIZED AFTER RECENT ELECTIONS.

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2. DUTCH REPORTEDLY ARE ANNOYED AND CONSIDER AS AN UNNECESSARY SLAP THE RECENT INTERVIEW GIVEN TO DUTCH REPORTERS IN WHICH PRESIDENT PEREZ TOOK DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO TASK ABOUT "COLONIAL" STATUS OF NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. DUTCH FONMIN REPORTEDLY REPLIED, ALSO TO PRESS, THAT NETHERLAND ANTILLES FREE AT ANY TIME TO OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE.

3. VENEZUELAN POSITION ON ANTILLES REMAIN SAME, I.E.,  
FAVORING INDEPENDENCE FOR THE ISLANDS, BUT AS A UNIT.  
DUTCH HAVING BEEN REPEATEDLY TOLD PRIVATELY THAT VENEZUELA'S  
MAIN CONCERN LIES WITH ARUBA AND POSSIBILITY THAT IT  
MAY STRIKE OUT FOR INDEPENDENCE ALONE. GOV BELIEVES  
RESULTING FRAGMENTATION WOULD RESULT IN AN UNSTABLE  
ARUBA AND POSSIBLE SECURITY PROBLEMS FOR VENEZUELA,  
GIVEN ARUBA'S GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY. COMMENT: GOV  
APPROACH TO DUTCH IS, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, PART OF CON-  
CERTED EFFORT BY PEREZ GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE A NUMBER OF  
OUTSTANDING BORDER PROBLEMS INCLUDING THE DIFERENDO  
WITH COLOMBIA. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS VERY  
MUCH RELATED TO THE RECENT APPROACH TO USG (REFTEL) CON-  
CERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITS BETWEEN U.S. VIRGIN  
ISLANDS AND PUERTO RICO AND VARIOUS VENEZUELAN ISLANDS.  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 CARACAS 9514  
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**Subject:** ESTABLISHMENT OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND NETHERLANDS ANTILLES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, PDEV, EFIS, PLOS, NA, VE, NL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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